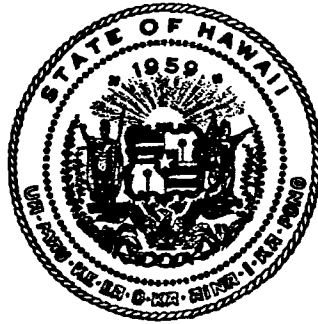


**Report to the Twenty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2004**

**ACTIVITIES OF THE
Kaneohe Bay Regional Council
FOR 2002-2003**



**Submitted on behalf of the
Kaneohe Bay Regional Council**

by the

**Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
in response to**

**Section 200D-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes
December 2003**

KANE'OHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2002

INTRODUCTION

This annual report is prepared in accordance with Chapter 200D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which established the Kaneohe Regional Council (Council). Section 200D-5, HRS provides for annual reporting to the governor and the legislature.

As required by law, the Council held public meetings during the year, on January 2, 2002, April 3, 2002, July 3, 2002 and October 2, 2002. Matter of business discussed during these meetings are reflected in the agendas and minutes (including corrections) for same, copies of which are available through the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR). All meetings were conducted in accordance with Chapter 92, HRS. A quorum of Council members was present at all meetings. The Council has seven members, including a representative from the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board, Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, commercial fishing community, recreational boating community, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), U.H./Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) and the commercial recreation business in Kaneohe Bay.

SUPPORT TO THE KANE'OHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

As in prior years, DOBOR provided the Council with administrative support for its meetings.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS

During 2002, the Council was guided by Section 200D-3, HRS, which sets forth the powers, duties and functions of the Council. The following are the significant discussions and actions taken by the Council in 2002:

1. Administrative Rules Relating to Kaneohe Bay

As in prior years, a major emphasis of the Council was to review, comment on and monitor the efforts by DOBOR to develop and complete the administrative rules for Kaneohe Bay. DOBOR had put a package of proposed rules before the Land Board that was approved to go the next step of a full public hearing. The process of the rules package going to public hearing was discussed and all interested parties were encouraged to attend and submit testimony.

2. Capacities of Snorkel Tours

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 2, 2002, the Council acted to recommend to DOBOR that it go forth to the Land Board with the recommended passenger counts of 150

capacity for the large snorkel tours and 70 people per day for the small snorkel tours and that this be an average daily limit over the course of a year.

3. Invasive Alien Limu

An alien limu called cappa ficus had been identified and regarded as a major threat to the reefs in a growing portion of the bay. It is a fast growing algae that gets so thick that it kills corals. The Council discussed the situation and asked for research assistance from the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to help find how to control the growth of the algae.

4. Citizen Involvement

The question of Council member outreach to their constituency was discussed. While all agreed that more input from the community is desired, especially from the recreational boating public, and a number of methods may be effective, the process takes considerable time and effort. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the citizens to get themselves informed and stay involved, and the Council members are only obligated to do their best and vote their conscience.

5. Water Quality/Non-Point Source Pollution

It was generally recognized that a major impact to the health of the bay is the effects of what happens on the land surrounding the bay. While the Council was not perceived to have much control or influence over land activities, pollution was a major concern. Pollution was recognized to take many forms and ongoing efforts by the Council to stay informed were valued.

6. Council Organization.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 3, 2002, the Council elected John Morgan to be the Chair and John Myrdal to be the Vice-Chair of the Council.

7. Fees

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 3, 2002, the Council acted to urge DOBOR to notify by means of postcard or other means all registered boat owners who are likely to use Heeia Kea boat harbor of the proposed fee increases not less than three weeks prior to the public hearings thereon.

8. Heeia Kea Area Maintenance

The privately owned strip of land between the harbor and the highway was noted to be unkept, thus degrading the area. At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 3, 2002, the Council acted to ask the community to volunteer to get permission from the landowner to go on the property to clean it up, and to have the DLNR look into acquiring and maintaining the area.

Respectfully submitted,


John Morgan, Chair
Kaneohe Bay Regional Council

KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2003

INTRODUCTION

This report is prepared in accordance with Chapter 200D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which established the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council (Council). Section 200D-5, HRS provides for annual reporting to the Governor and Legislature.

As required by law, the Council held public meetings during the year, on January 8, 2003, April 2, 2003, July 2, 2003, and October 1, 2003. Matters of business discussed during these meetings are reflected in the agendas and minutes (including corrections for same, copies of which are available through the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR). All meetings were conducted in accordance with Chapter 92, HRS. A quorum of Council members was present at all meetings, except for the one held on April 2, 2003. The Council has seven members, including representatives from the Kahalu'u and Kaneohe Neighborhood Boards, commercial fishing community, recreational boating community, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), U.H./Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) and the commercial recreation businesses in Kaneohe Bay. The Council did not have a Kaneohe Neighborhood Board representative until the October 2003 meeting.

SUPPORT TO THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

As in prior years, DOBOR provided the Council with administrative support for its meetings.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS

During 2003, the Council was guided by Section 200D-3, HRS, which sets forth the powers, duties and functions of the Council. The following are the significant discussions and actions taken by the Council in 2003.

1. Administrative Rules relating to Kaneohe Bay

As in prior years, there was significant emphasis on urging DOBOR to make progress on implementing the administrative rules for Kaneohe Bay. The rules were drafted by DOBOR but had not yet gone to public hearing. As part of the process, the statewide fee increases proposed by DOBOR were reviewed. The Council requested from DOBOR specific justification for the fee increases, where the increase was being allocated and for a report back to the Council on the information requests.

2. Marine Protected areas in Kaneohe Bay

At its January 8, 2003 meeting, the Council reviewed a draft of a resolution to the Legislature requesting the DLNR to begin the process of establishing a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Kaneohe Bay as mandated by the Master Plan. After much discussion, the Council passed a motion endorsing the draft resolution.

3. Ocean Awareness Signage

At several meetings, the idea was discussed of improving the signage at the Heeia Boat Harbor and other public access points to the Bay. The general idea was that the new signage should promote ocean awareness, in a way that reflected Hawaiian cultural values.

4. Informational Presentations

George Phocas of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service made a presentation at the April 2003 meeting about coral poaching in Kaneohe Bay. He reported that over a period of six years from 1993 to 1997, people were illegally taking about 2 tons of coral per week from the Bay. The perpetrators were caught by using the enforcement powers authorized by the fishing regulations.

Dr. Evelyn Cox also made a presentation about water quality in Kaneohe Bay at the April 2003 meeting.

At the July 2003 meeting, Matt Claybaugh, President of Merimed Foundation made a presentation of Merimed's operations and the new vessel they use to help educate their students.

At the October 2003 meeting, Herb Lee made a presentation about the Waikalua Loko Fishpond Preservation Society.

Respectfully submitted,



John Morgan, Chair
Kaneohe Bay Regional Council